



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/188,702    08/13/98    CLEVER

E    5012-2

EXAMINER

QM12/0805

NORMAN E LEHRER  
1205 NORTH KINGS HIGHWAY  
CHERRY HILL NJ 08034

CARLSON, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3712

DATE MAILED:

08/05/99

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/188,702

Applicant(s)  
Clever et al

Examiner  
Jeffrey D. Carlson

Group Art Unit  
3712



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 17, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, and 5 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, and 5 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☒ The drawing(s) filed on Aug 13, 1998 is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been  
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 6

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the election filed 5/17/99.

#### *Drawings*

2. The drawings are objected to because:
  - Why is figure 1's 14A on the hub, not rod?
  - There is no line for 22 in figure 2 at left.
  - Page 6 line 8 states a rod back surface 19, but figure 1 has 19 on the hub.
  - Figure 2, why is 25 on the type 2 side figure and not on type 3? Also, some sort of outline shown be provided to make it clear that these are holes in a piece and not pieces themselves.
  - The following elements numbers are mentioned in the description, but cannot be found in the figures: 10, 16b, 17a, 17b, 18b, 33, 71 and 72.

Correction is required.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use

*or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.*

4. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Orplast (FR1183331). Orplast shows a connector having holes 6 and 7 separated by a web. Although not required by the claims, the holes 6 and 7 can receive a fingered connector 3/4 from another piece. Orplast also provides central area 5 which can be taken to provide two holes at the sides and an intermediate passage connecting such holes. Again, although not required by the claims, the holes provided at 5 can receive a fingered connector 3/4 from another piece.


#### ***Conclusion***

Inquiries relating to the status of this application, or inquiries of a general nature (fees, etc) should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Inquiries concerning the merits of this application should be directed to Jeffrey D. Carlson, whose telephone number is listed below. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 to 6:00. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday's.



Jeffrey D. Carlson  
July 21, 1999  
☎: (703)308-3402



Kien T. Nguyen  
Primary Examiner